

Application No.: 10/072,031

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Docket No.: 06920/000K272-US0

REMARKS

In reviewing the amendment dated October 14, 2003, it was considered that the addition of the term "the plurality of" in each of claims 1, 7, 14 and 24 was probably redundant and also may have confused the claims. Therefore, the term has been eliminated.

In claim 19, line 3 the closing parentheses was missing. This has been added.

The REMARKS presented in the October 14, 2003 amendment relative to the prior art are repeated and incorporated herein by reference.

A further comment is made relative to claim 33, which depends from claim 14 and recites the feature of the expanded core fibers. In rejecting claim 23, which recited this feature, the Examiner stated that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the expanded core fibers in the system of Gipson as taught by Abe since the known expedients would reduce alignment precision requirements and reduce aberrations.

However, using the expanded core fibers is not to reduce alignment precision requirements but to reduce radiation loss of light due to diffraction loss in the trench, especially when the surface-normal active optical device is thick (refer to lines 5-10 on page 74 and lines 4-6 on page 75 of the original Specification).

Claim 29 is amended to correct a typographical error in the amendment dated October 14, 2003.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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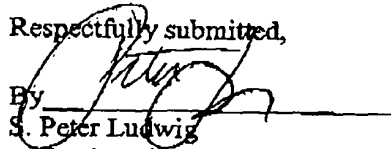
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Prompt and favorable action is requested.

Dated: October 30, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By


S. Peter Ludwig

Registration No.: 25,351

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant

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